GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:333
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
PARTICIPATION IN WORLD CUP FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-participation of Indian team in the world cup football tournament held recently in Germany;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any policy/programme in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to regain the past glory in football, hockey, track events and the Olympic Games; and

(f) the place/ranking occupied by India in the list of football playing countries of the world at present?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHIR MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (d): Participation in World Cup Football Tournament is only through a Qualifying Tournament. Since, the Indian football team could not qualify through the Qualifying round, it could not participate in the World Cup Football Tournament at Germany. The policy on participation in the World Cup Football Tournament is finalized by the FIFA, the World Body for the game of football. Government have no role in this regard.

(e) The development of sports and the scouting and nurturing of talent in various sports disciplines is, primarily, the responsibility of the State Governments and the National Sports Federations (NSFs). However, the Government of India is supplementing the efforts of State Governments and NSFs in the following manner:

(i) Finalisation & implementation of Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for various sports disciplines in consultation with the concerned NSFs, former international sportspersons and Sports Scientists/Experts.

(ii) Provision of equipment and scientific support to sportspersons/teams.

(iii) Intensive coaching of the players/teams by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps.

(iv) Intensive training abroad to the sportspersons/teams as well as Indian coaches.

(v) Financial assistance to concerned federations for participation of sportspersons/teams in international tournaments.

(vi) Assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training & participation within the country and abroad is provided to the outstanding sportspersons under the `Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training` and the `National Sports Development Fund`.

(vii) As regards World Cup Football 2010 - 2014, All India Football Federation has already launched a project to qualify for World Cup 2010 - 2014.

Besides, the Sports Authority of India, with a view to broad basing of sports and scouting talent at a young age, also provides coaching facilities under its various schemes viz. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme, Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Scheme, Scheme of SAI Training Centres (STC), Special Area Games Scheme (SAG) and Centre of Excellence(COX).

(f) As per FIFA World Ranking released in July, 2006, India is placed at 130 out of 207 units affiliated with FIFA.